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piston ring with respect to said back wall, thereby minimizing transverse movement of said piston with respect to said piston ring and said cylinder bore;

10           the compressible support means said one or more ring grooves structure effective for exerting a pressure around the piston and piston ring for maintaining the piston concentrically within the cylinder bore and minimize movement of the wall face of the said piston ring from approaching, or  
15           falling into, said piston ring groove during operation;

          the compressible support means further being effective for providing a substantially complete seal to minimize leakage of gasses, or oil, upwardly and downwardly around said piston rings and past the all face of said piston  
20           ring and through said piston ring groove.

#### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

          A piston ring assembly includes a piston, and at least  
25           one piston ring positioned within a piston groove. Stabilization and support of the piston is provided by a support arrangement, including at least one support member positioned radially between a back wall of the ring groove and the piston ring. The support arrangement desirably acts to  
30           accommodate transverse loads exerted upon the piston during normal operation, and can optionally be configured for enhanced sealing of gasses. Improved engine output and efficiency are achieved.